In the claims:

Please replace claims 21 and 33 with the following rewritten claims:

21. (Once Amended) A sustained release composition for use as an excipient of an orally administered specimen containing a bioactive substance, comprising:

(a) cellulose in an amount by weight in the orally administered specimen in the range from about 4% to about 14%;

(b) maltodextrin in an amount such that the ratio by weight of the amount of cellulose to the amount of maltodextrin in the orally administered specimen is at least about 1:9, and wherein the cellulose and the maltodextrin are distributed throughout the orally administered specimen; and

(c) the bioactive substance, such that the maltodextrin and the cellulose provide in an aqueous medium the sustained release of the bioactive substance for a time period, and this time period is at least one hour.

33. (Once Amended) A sustained release composition for use as an excipient of an orally administered specimen containing a glucosamine-based substance, comprising:

(a) cellulose in an amount by weight in the orally administered specimen in the range from about 4% to about 14%;

(b) maltodextrin in an amount such that the ratio by weight of the amount of cellulose to the amount of maltodextrin in the orally administered specimen is at least about 1:9 and the amount of maltodextrin exceeds the amount of cellulose, such that the cellulose and maltodextrin composition acts as a stomach guard with respect to the glucosamine-based substance, and wherein the cellulose and the maltodextrin are distributed throughout the orally administered specimen; and

(c) the glucosamine-based substance, such that the maltodextrin and the cellulose provide in an aqueous medium the sustained release of the glucosamine-based substance for a time interval such that the released glucosamine-based substance does not significantly irritate the recipient's stomach lining.